



Republican Policy Committee

Don Nickles, Chairman Doug Badger, Staff Director 347 Russell Senate Office Building (202)224-2946

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Ending Welfare As We Know It

Work Opportunity Act of 1995

Sponsor: Dole

Cosponsors as of introduction: Packwood, Lott, Nickles, Cochran, Mack, D'Amato, Thurmond, Abraham, Bennett, Bond, Brown, DeWine, Frist, Gorton, Grassley, Gregg, Hatch, Helms, Hutchison, Inhofe, McCain, Murkowski, Pressler, Roth, Santorum, Shelby, Simpson, Stevens, Thomas, Thompson and Warner.

Work Opportunity Act of 1995, introduced yesterday, will make comprehensive reforms in six of the ten largest federal welfare programs. These six programs cost taxpayers more than \$90 billion annually. The reforms emphasize work, strengthen families and increase personal responsibility. The bill, which the Senate is expected to begin debating later this week, will:

- **End welfare as a way of life.**
 - People no longer will qualify automatically for a welfare check.
 - Assistance is time-limited — for a lifetime limit of five years.
- **Require able-bodied adult welfare recipients to work.**
 - Work means work. Welfare recipients will no longer be able to avoid work by moving from one job training program to the next. They must begin work no later than two years after getting onto the rolls — no excuses.
 - A welfare recipient whose cash assistance is reduced for failing to work no longer will get an offsetting increase in food stamp benefits or housing assistance — no more "gaming" the welfare system.
 - States will be able to require welfare applicants to look for a job before they ever get a welfare check.

- **Strengthen families and require personal responsibility.**
 - States can deny cash payments to teenage mothers and place family caps on cash assistance without obtaining federal waivers.
 - Single teen parents must stay in school and live under adult supervision.
 - Applicants for welfare benefits must cooperate in paternity establishment — or lose their benefits.
 - Deadbeat parents will face financial penalties and tough, new sanctions, including the loss of their professional licenses.
- **Cut federal bureaucracy.**
 - The federal welfare bureaucracy at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the job training bureaucracy at the Department of Labor will be cut by 30 percent.
 - Thousands of pages of government regulations will be taken off the books, including every current federal AFDC rule and regulation.
- **Reduce federal welfare spending.**
 - Federal spending on welfare will drop by more than \$65 billion below currently projected levels over the next seven years, the largest reduction in welfare spending in history.
- **Eliminate federal mandates on states.**
 - States will be free to pursue innovative ways to reduce welfare dependency and increase self-sufficiency among welfare recipients, without having to get permission from Washington bureaucrats.
- **Reform SSI.**
 - Benefits under the Supplemental Security Income program (SSI), the largest federal cash welfare program, no longer will be granted on the basis of drug addiction or alcoholism.
 - Loopholes that allow children to receive SSI benefits under a mechanism known as an "individual functional assessment" (IFA) will be closed.
- **Reform welfare for noncitizens, as well as for citizens.**
 - People who sponsor noncitizens must provide them with financial support for at least five years under most federal means-tested programs.
 - States will have the option to deny certain welfare benefits to noncitizens.

Staff Contact: Jack Clark, 224-2946